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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:52:02 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 17, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1284 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: ELAB, PREL, ECON, EAID, KPAL, KDEM
Captions: None
Subject: UAE WOMEN MAY BE ELECTED TO THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
BOARD; IS THE FNC NEXT?
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01284

SIPDIS
Laser1:
INFO: FCS
CXABU:
ACTION: ECON
INFO: DCM POL P/M AMB

DISSEMINATION: ECON
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM: RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: ECON: CCRUMPLER
CLEARED: ECON: TWILLIAMS POL: SWILLIAMS

VZCZCADI204
RR RUEHC RUEHEE RUEHDI
DE RUEHAD #1284 0761303
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 171303Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8898
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEHDI/AMCONSUL DUBAI 2885

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 001284

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA, NEA/ARP
AMEMBASSY TUNIS HOLD FSI FOR OLIVER JOHN

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ELAB](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [KPAL](#) [KWMN](#) [KDEM](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE WOMEN MAY BE ELECTED TO THE CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE BOARD; IS THE FNC NEXT?

11. (SBU) SUMMARY AND COMMENT: IN WHAT COULD BE A FIRST STEP
TO WOMEN IN THE UAE'S PARLIAMENTARY FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL
(FNC), THE ABU DHABI CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE HAVE PROPOSED
ELECTING BUSINESSWOMEN TO THE BOARD OF THE LOCAL AND FEDERAL-
LEVEL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UAE
FEDERATION CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE SAEED SAIF BIN JABR AL-
SUWEIDI ON MARCH 10 PUBLICLY CALLED FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO
BUSINESSWOMEN TO THE BOARD OF EACH EMIRATE'S CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE, AND A WOMAN FROM EACH EMIRATE TO SERVE ON THE

BOARD OF THE FEDERAL CHAMBER. THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE HERE, WHILE QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL IN NATURE, NEVERTHELESS ARE POWERFUL ORGANIZATIONS OF INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSPEOPLE, AND ARE AMONG THE FEW EXAMPLES OF MEANINGFUL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE UAE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS EFFORT TO PROMOTE BUSINESSWOMEN INTO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE CHAMBERS IS A PRELUDE TO ANOTHER PUSH FOR FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN THE HERETOFORE ALL-MALE FNC. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

¶2. (U) THE BOARD OF THE FEDERATION CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WILL TAKE UP THE ISSUE OF FEMALE REPRESENTATIVES AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN APRIL. IF THE BOARD MEMBERS ACCEPT AL-SUWEIDI'S PROPOSAL, BUSINESSWOMEN COULD ELECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF BUSINESSWOMEN WITHIN EACH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WOULD ELECT THE WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES FOR BOTH THE EMIRATE-LEVEL, AND FEDERAL-LEVEL CHAMBER BOARDS.

¶3. (U) UAE FIRST LADY SHAYKHA FATIMA BINT MUBARAK, PRINCIPAL WIFE OF PRESIDENT ZAYID AND VOCAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS STILL DEEPLY CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY, REPORTEDLY PROPOSED THE IDEA TO ALLOCATE SEATS FOR BUSINESSWOMEN AT THE LOCAL AND FEDERAL-LEVEL CHAMBERS. SHAYKHA FATIMA IS ALSO THE HONORARY CHAIRPERSON OF THE BUSINESSWOMEN'S COMMITTEE IN ABU DHABI. SHE RECENTLY SPONSORED THE CREATION OF "KNOWLEDGE GARDEN," A FUND ESTABLISHED IN ABU DHABI TO HELP BUSINESSWOMEN ACQUIRE INFORMATION ON EDUCATION/TRAINING AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

¶4. (SBU) FOLLOWING A SIMILAR TRIP TO FRANCE LAST YEAR, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BUSINESSWOMEN'S COUNCIL OF ABU DHABI CURRENTLY IS VISITING SWITZERLAND TO MEET SWISS BUSINESSWOMEN AND TOUR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES THERE. THE ABU DHABI BUSINESSWOMEN WILL HOST THE FIRST ARAB BUSINESSWOMEN'S FORUM IN APRIL, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND ARE EXPECTED TO INVITE A NUMBER OF TOP U.S. WOMEN EXECUTIVES TO ATTEND.

WAHBA